

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are pending.

A new Abstract, without the term "comprising," is provided. Accordingly, the objection to the specification in paragraph 1 of the detailed action is avoided.

The suggested guidelines for the insertion of section titles is noted by Applicants. In that these guidelines are not mandatory, they are not being adopted at this time.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the only ground for rejection of the pending claims (as obvious, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), in view of U.S. 6,436,442 to Woo *et al.*) is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

The Woo *et al.* reference does not disclose a filter medium for a circulating and/or for a recirculating air system.

According to Woo *et al.*, compositions which include cyclodextrin with a compound which will complex with cyclodextrin ("cyclodextrin incompatible") and, optionally, a compound which form no or weak complex with cyclodextrin ("cyclodextrin compatible), are provided. The optional cyclodextrin compatible compound is first and foremost exemplified by cyclodextrin-compatible surfactants (*see, e.g.*, column 2, lines 61-63; column 18, lines 49-50 and line 60; and columns 19-26). Other cyclodextrin-compatibles are listed in columns 26-27 (cyclodextrin-incompatible perfumes) and columns 27-29 (cyclodextrin-compatible antimicrobial actives. In the latter class, the patentees disclose the genus of biguanides and quaternary compounds.

The cyclodextrin-compatible compounds "help to maintain functionally available cyclodextrin in the present compositions by forming molecular aggregates, such as micelles and/or vesicles, with the cyclodextrin-incompatible materials. By forming molecular aggregates, the cyclodextrin-incompatible have a reduced tendency to complex with the cyclodextrin molecules, thus maintaining the requisite functionally-available cyclodextrin in the compositions." (*see*, column 18, lines 51-57).

Disclosed end uses include, for example, detergent compositions, fabric softening compositions, shampoo compositions, hard surface cleaning compositions and the like (column 3, lines 10-13).

A more detailed description of methods of use is found in columns 31-32. The compositions are noted to be useful for “removing unwanted molecules, such as malodorous molecules from surfaces, especially inanimate surfaces including fabrics, including carpets, and household surfaces such as countertops, dishes, floors, garbage cans, ceilings, walls, carpet padding, air filters, and the like, and animate surfaces, including skin, hair, and the like.”

There is, however, no disclosure or suggestion to provide an air filter in which the filter medium contains a microbiologically effective amount of a polymeric biguanide or salt thereof, including, the specific polymeric biguanides as set forth by formulas (1) or (4), including claims 2 and 3, or the mixture of individual biguanide units as set forth in claims 4-5, or the mixture of polymers of formula (5), including claim 6.

There is no disclosure or suggestion of the composition of a filter medium, including, for example, natural polymer or synthetic plastics material, such as cellulose.

Since there is no disclosure or suggestion or using the cyclodextrin containing composition with cyclodextrin-compatible biguanide antimicrobial actives, there is, of course, no disclosure or suggestion of a suitable amount of polymeric biguanide, such as, for example, from 0.00001% to 10% based on the weight of the filter medium.

Woo *et al.* does not disclose or suggest a method of reducing odours and/or air-borne microorganisms in circulating and/or recirculating air by passing the air through a filter medium containing a polymeric biguanide or salt thereof, including, for example, air having a relative humidity between 20% and 80%.

Finally, there is nothing in the disclosure of Woo *et al.* which would have suggested a method for protecting a filter medium of a circulating and/or recirculating air system against microbial degradation by incorporating in, or on, the medium, a biologically effective amount of a polymeric biguanide or salt thereof.

Again, the treatment of an air filter includes treating a filter medium, and there is no disclosure or suggestion of an embodiment wherein the optional cyclodextrin-compatible material is a biguanide antimicrobial active agent and wherein the object to be treated is an air filter, much less, a filter medium of, or for, an air filter.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11, based on the disclosure of Woo *et al.* is respectfully requested.

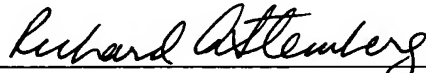
The references cited, but not applied, are not considered to defeat the patentability of the various embodiments of Applicants' invention as disclosed and claimed.

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By: 
Richard A. Steinberg
Registration No. 26,588
Direct No. (703) 905-2039

Paul L. Sharer
Registration No. 36,004
Direct No. (703) 905-2180

PLS/RAS
1600 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22101
(703) 905-2000 Telephone
(703) 905-2500 Facsimile

Date: December 4, 2003